United Nations S/2001/11

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 January 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 4 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter addressed to H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, from H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Abdulmejid **Hussein**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-20328 (E) 040101

Annex to the letter dated 4 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you out of a keen desire to ensure in advance that there will be absolutely no probability, and even the remotest possibility, for creating obstacles to the implementation of the Peace Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea to whose realization you have contributed so much.

I was prompted to write to you after the briefing I had received from our delegation to the Military Coordination Commission on the second session of the Commission convened on 28 December in Nairobi. I would like you to know that I was very much disappointed over the behaviour of the Eritrean delegation. The impression I got from the briefing I received was that what Eritrea appears to want is the renegotiation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. The issues that Eritrea is raising with respect to Zalambessa and Badme — including the preposterous claim that those areas fell within Eritrean jurisdiction in the pre-6 May 1998 period — are not only baseless but they make a mockery of the tragedy that we had to pass through over the last two and half years because of the folly committed by Eritrea. They also make a mockery of the findings of the OAU Ambassadorial Committee.

It is vitally important that in your capacity as a witness and as one of the guarantors of the Peace Agreement, that you make it clear to the Eritrean side that what the international community awaits is the faithful implementation of the Peace Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and not its renegotiation.

Let me assure you that Ethiopia, as I have reiterated in the past, will continue to be scrupulous in its commitment to the full implementation of the Agreement signed. Since so much has been sacrificed in its realization, Ethiopia will allow no backtracking from the Agreement under whatever guise.

I have absolutely no inkling as to why at this late hour, Eritrea wishes to raise issues with respect to the implementation of the Agreement that are manifestly bogus. Whatever the reasons, however, I am confident that you and the other witnesses and guarantors of the Agreement, will not allow Eritrea to continue with the illusion that a renegotiation by stealth of the Agreement will be possible. Eritrea should be allowed neither to jeopardize the peace process — which in my mind is in the mutual interest of both countries to make irreversible — nor to succeed in undermining the credibility of those who have pledged to ensure its success.

I hope that you will continue to be alert and to do whatever is humanly possible to help us to achieve lasting peace.

(Signed) Meles **Zenawi**
Prime Minister